

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
OF PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 3
OF MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

President Farmer called a regular teleconference meeting of the Mason County PUD No. 3 board of commissioners to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams in Shelton, Washington, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

District officers present were: Commissioners, Thomas J. Farmer; Linda R. Gott; Bruce E. Jorgenson Manager Annette Creekpaum; Attorney Robert Johnson; Risk Manager/Auditor Brian Taylor; Finance Manager/Treasurer Sherry Speaks.

The following PUD 3 personnel were present: IS Manager John Bennett; Communications & Government Relations Manager Lynn Eaton; Customer Service Manager Diane Hennessy; Director of Engineering & Utility Services Justin Holzgrove; Network Systems & Cyber Security Administrator Joel Moore; Environmental & Admin Specialist Ali Burgess (recorded minutes).

Members of the public in attendance were Randy Lewis of Shelton (video conference) and Dedrick Allen of *Mason Web TV* (teleconference joined at 10:03).

MODIFICATION AND/OR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Farmer reviewed the items listed on the consent agenda. Mr. Jorgenson moved; motion seconded by Ms. Gott to adopt the consent agenda. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. By adopting the consent agenda, the following items were approved:

- a. Minutes of the February 23, 2021 regular commission meeting.
- b. Voucher Nos. (March 02, 2021) 157021 through 157062 \$ 240,667.71
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 26667-26688)
- c. Voucher Nos. (March 09, 2021) 157062 through 157115 \$ 255,343.30
(Includes electronic funds transfer payment Nos. 26689-26725)
- Total** \$ 496,011.01
- d. Void accounts payable checks for the week ending February 26, 2021 in the amount of \$6,272.00 and the week ending March 5, 2021 in the amount of \$543.27.
- e. Governance Policy Expense Approval

*Vouchers audited and certified by the district auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted for the record that correspondence from customer Silvana Golda was provided to the commissioners and receipt was confirmed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Lewis provided public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation was made to Adopt Resolution No. 1768, “A Resolution Authorizing and Naming the Assigned Representative-Signature-Certifier and Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Program and Community Connect Grant Program.”

Mrs. Creekpauam stated that the recommendation assigns employees to manage the District’s online USDA Reconnect grant program.

Mr. Jorgenson moved, motion seconded by Ms. Gott to Adopt Resolution No. 1768, “A Resolution Authorizing and Naming the Assigned Representative-Signature-Certifier and Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Reconnect Program and Community Connect Grant Program.” After a brief discussion, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

STAFF REPORT

Mrs. Creekpauam reported on the current COVID-19 efforts. As of March 8, 2021, there are 1,713 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and twenty-three (23) COVID related deaths in Mason County. There were 39 new confirmed cases in the last fourteen (14) days and 60 confirmed cases per 100,000 tested. As of March 5, 2021, Washington State has 325,053 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 5,041 COVID related deaths, and 1,865,640 vaccinations given. Mason County Health Department and Mason General Hospital have approved PUD 3 employees to be eligible for vaccines in group 1 B Tier II, beginning March 22, 2021.

Mrs. Creekpauam reported on the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) grant deadlines of May 2023 (CERB I) and November 2023 (CERB II). The operational needs to meet these deadlines are being evaluated since they occur consecutively.

At Mrs. Creekpauam’s request, Mr. Holzgrove gave an update on fiber applications. There are currently 135 applications for connection, sixty-six (66) of those applications are unassigned and thirty-six (36) are waiting of customer work for the final connection to the residence. This has been a six (6) to eight (8) week process for fiber connection.

At Mrs. Creekpauam’s request, Mr. Holzgrove reported on the Emergency Broadband Benefits (EBB), which will replace Lifeline program and help to lower customer broadband bills.

Mrs. Creekpauam gave an engineering update. There were 74 altered service applications in January 2021, compared to 79 applications in January 2020. Although altered service applications were decreased from the previous year, new service applications increased by one (1).

Mrs. Creekpaum reported that Community Action Council (CAC) paid \$102,858 towards 213 customer accounts.

At Mrs. Creekpaum's request, Mrs. Eaton gave a legislative update. She reported on an upcoming meeting with Congressional Representative Marilyn Strickland as well as provided updates on the status of several bills at the state legislature which could possibly impact Mason PUD 3. Two bills tied to the PUDs legislative priorities, HB 1336 and SB 5383, have passed their house of origin and are moving along in the process.

Mrs. Creekpaum discussed the PUD 1 and PUD 3 Intertie for Reliability agreement. This agreement will be mutually beneficial to both Districts. The intertie will support the Union and Brockdale areas from McReavy Road to McEwen Prairie Road. Since this is just operational, no commission action was required. However, Mr. Holzgrove noted this agreement was also being presenting at the PUD 1 commission meeting.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Ms. Gott reported that she attended the American Public Power Association (APPA) policy maker and council meeting, the APPA legislative rally, the Public Power Council (PPC) member forum and PPC executive meeting. She noted the work evaluating Congressman Simpson's Snake River Dam proposal.

Mr. Farmer reported that he also attended the APPA and PPC meetings, as well as several Washington Public Utility District Association (WPUDA) presentations with legislators. He noted John Kounts retirement announcement after over thirty (30) years with WPUDA.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

With no further business appearing, the commission meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.


THOMAS J FARMER (Mar 23, 2021 11:46 PDT)

Thomas J Farmer, President


Linda R. Gott (Mar 23, 2021 11:59 PDT)

Linda R. Gott, Vice President

ATTEST:


Bruce E. Jorgenson (Mar 23, 2021 14:37 PDT)

Bruce E. Jorgenson, Secretary